

# Nam language

**Nam** is an unclassified extinct language preserved in Tibetan transcriptions in a number of Dunhuang manuscript fragments. The manuscript fragments are currently held at the British Library and the Bibliothèque nationale de France.

## Classification

According to Ikeda Takumi, the research of F. W. Thomas, published in 1948, concluded that Nam "was one of the old *Qiang* [*languages*] spoken around the Nam mountain range near Koko nor in Qinghai province", associated with a country called *Nam tig* which is mentioned in some historical records. However, Ikeda further states that Thomas' conclusions were widely criticized.<sup>[2]</sup>

*Glottolog* accepts that it was at least Sino-Tibetan/Tibeto-Burman.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Lexicon

Wen (1981: 18-19) lists the following list of basic vocabulary items in Nam, which have been taken from Thomas (1948: 399-451).

Nam	
Region	Central Asia
Era	?
Language family	Sino-Tibetan <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(unclassified)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Nam</b></li></ul></li></ul>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	<i>None</i> (mis)
Glottolog	namm1235 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/namm1235">http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/namm1235</a> ) <sup>[1]</sup>

No.	Chinese gloss	English gloss	Nam
1	天	sky	mo, nam
2	云	cloud	gmog, mog, mog
3	日	sun	gnyi
4	月	moon	'la, la
5	火	fire	sme/'me, 'me'i, me, 'mye, ye
6	水	water	'ldya, 'ldya
7	山	mountain	'ri, gri, gri'i, 'ri'i
8	石	stone	'rto, rto
9	虎	tiger	cho
10	熊	bear (animal)	gre
11	牦牛	yak	'brong
12	马	horse	rta, rta', 'rta, 'rta'
13	驴	donkey	gzu, 'ju, 'zu, 'dzu, 'ju'u'gduz
14	狗	dog	'kyi
15	猪	pig	'phag
16	头	head	'bu, 'ko
17	眼	eye	'me'i, méi, mye
18	齿	tooth	swa
19	手	hand	'phyag
20	心	heart	syning, snyang
21	盲	blind	klu
22	死	dead	'shi, shi (gshi, bshi)
23	箭	arrow	'da', 'lda'?
24	门	door	rgo, 'go, 'ko(rgor)
25	大	big	rbo, bo-bon, rbom, 'bom, 'rbom
26	小	small	byi, hbyi
27	高	high	shid, 'shid, tho, 'tho, stang, 'stang

## References

1. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Nam" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/namm1235>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
2. Ikeda Takumi. "Spotlights to the decipherment of the Nam language" ([http://mercury.soas.ac.uk/wadict/icstl41/abstracts/ikeda\\_conf\\_abstract.doc](http://mercury.soas.ac.uk/wadict/icstl41/abstracts/ikeda_conf_abstract.doc)). *The 41st International Conference on*

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**This page was last edited on 17 February 2020, at 21:42 (UTC).**

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